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Luck of the Irish

Barb Murphy, Michelle Anton, and Dianne Woodcock pause for a photo during the St. Patrick's Day lunch at SIRCH Bistro on March 12. The event was accompanied by Gord Kidd's musical talents. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

HE accepts final budget draft with 6% tax levy increase

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Highlands East's municipal spending plan includes a tax increase of almost six per cent for property owners.

Township council on March 11 officially adopted the numbers that had been discussed during a meeting in February.

"The presentation included all operating and capital items for the 2025 year across all departments," said Brittany McCaw, the township's CAO and treasurer.

Council didn't ask for any changes or tweaks in the weeks leading up to the March 11 meeting.

So that means the 2025 municipal capital and operating budget contains a 5.96 per cent tax rate increase over last year. That means an extra $33.38 for every $100,000 of a property's assessed value.

McCaw said during the February meeting that the 2025 budget is the result of careful planning on the part of

see HIGHLANDS page 2

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Handmade Heaven comes to a halt

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Handmade Heaven at 160 Highland Street has been completely emptied out, with only the sign remaining. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

It seemed like it happened overnight; we blinked, and suddenly Handmade Heaven, the shop at 160 Highland Street which featured a variety of local artists, was gone.

Shelves emptied, signs pulled down, and lingering questions about what happened abound.

For artist Heather Robertson of The Painted Pine, she is still reeling from the whiplash of the sudden closure. "We had absolutely no forewarning, no indication that any of our money would be refunded," she said.

Robertson originally started with Handmade Heaven through the Peterborough location in March of 2022. The chain had opened a series of stores across the province, all boasting the same concept of featuring local artists in a consignment-style shop. The Haliburton branch of the chain opened on July 27 of this past year.

Robertson shared that her initial experience with owner Sam Milne was very positive. "He was very encouraging to new makers such as myself, and really threw his whole heart and soul into the business," she said. "I truly believe he had every intention of making Handmade Heaven a big success."

Milne continued to open new locations across the province, and Roberston moved her product into Oakville and Haliburton as well. As the expansions rolled out, Robertson noted that her payments for her products were continually on time, and if there were ever any questions or discrepancies, Milne would address them immediately. "He really wanted people to know he was fully behind them and the business," she said.

Fast forward to January of this year, and Robertson noted that things started to change. "I was receiving messages from a couple other vendors asking if I'd been paid, and I had," she shared. "I didn't think anything of it, other than that banking may be delayed depending on a branch or bank you were with."

To start the year, the business offered the vendors a special promotion of paying rent for the whole year ahead, resulting in getting November and December for free. Robertson shared that these types of promotions had been presented before, so she didn't think much of it, and went ahead with the deal for multiple locations. "I thought I was going to have a great year," she said. "Little did I know what would happen just a few short weeks later."

On the morning of Tuesday, March 3, Robertson and all the vendors received a brief but cutting email, stating that effective immediately, all Handmade Heaven stores would be closing, and products needed to be picked up as soon as possible.

At that point, all communications were shut down for the business. Robertson noted that she emailed every contact she had ever made through Handmade Heaven, and nothing went through. *The Echo* made several attempts at reaching the owners, and all means of communication have been removed at the time of publication; a ringtone notifying the caller that the number is no longer in service.

Robertson shared that the managers and staff at both the Peterborough and Haliburton locations seemed just as shocked as the vendors at the sudden closures. "They had no knowledge that this was happening, and found out in the same email as vendors did," she said. "I felt horrible for the staff, as they were in the stores kindly helping us pack up, and they had all just lost their jobs." She went on to thank the staff, and noted they were "polite, caring, and wonderful."

> ***"We had absolutely no forewarning, no indication that any of our money would be refunded ..."***
>
> — Heather Robertson

According to Robertson, many of the artists are at a loss for words. "Vendors themselves are shocked, furious, and shattered by these goings on," she said. "None of us were aware, and so many have lost thousands of dollars in rent, and products that were sold and they never received the money for the sales."

Following the brief note to confirm the closure, Robertson said that she received a follow-up email from Milne, citing ongoing issues with former business partners, though he did not get into great detail. Robertson believes this to be the true reasoning behind the sudden closure, "at least, that is what I want to be the truth. I doubt we'll ever know," she said.

Robertson shared that people from the community have been reaching out to herself and fellow vendors, offering support and understanding during the challenging time. "That means more than people could ever imagine," she said. She noted that she's been in touch with other local maker stores, and hopes to continue to have a presence in Haliburton. "I've loved the community of friends I made through Handmade Heaven," she said. "So many of us are still in touch; it's hard to keep a creative mind down."

Highlands East to focus on infrastructure improvements

from page 1

management and staff across municipal departments.

The priorities identified reflect the township's commitment to remain productive and forward thinking while addressing the municipality's monetary needs, she said.

"Information gathering and costing is essential in shaping a budget that aims to enhance the quality of life of our citizens," she said.

The key areas in the spending plan include infrastructure improvements for roads, bridges, public facilities, and water and wastewater works.

"As council is very well aware, budgets are never easy to prepare," McCaw said. "Careful consideration goes into municipal needs and often many expenses can be beyond our control. We are navigating challenging times and it's crucial to address the factors influencing our financial planning."

Those include inflation, supply chain challenges, and rising energy costs.

"If that wasn't already enough, we also now need to consider the threat of potential tariffs, import costs, and what that could mean to our municipality as well," she said. "All of which means these are rising costs beyond our control."

Every dollar has the same worth but greater need given the distressing economic climate.

"We have carefully prioritized projects to ensure we maximize every impact of every dollar spent," she said. "We do strive to maintain and balanced, sustainable budget and it is important to acknowledge that there are external factors that are beyond our control."

McCaw said municipal staff must work together to find innovative solutions, make informed decisions, and ensure the financial stability and wellbeing of our community.

"We have worked diligently to balance these priorities with the need to maintain a prudent fiscal approach," she said. "Our goal is to deliver a budget that is both ambitious but yet achievable, ensuring that we can continue to provide high quality services to our residents without compromising our financial stability."

Highlands East looks to capitalize on backwoods assets

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Highlands East hopes to focus on their many trails as a priority for this year, in an effort to highlight community identity. /FILE

Highlands East is taking stock of its backwoods offerings.

The township has 10 formal trails that stretch more than 30 kilometres and involves six lakes. The municipality tapped pl.ural, a landscape architecture and design firm, to take a look at the backwoods thoroughfares and suggest a trails strategy.

The strategy will guide planning and decisions by the town that would affect municipally-owned trails and paddle routes. It will aid in the development of infrastructure and a framework to advance trails into the next decade.

Sean Kelly, the project manager at pl.ural, said during council's March 11 meeting that the strategy will address challenges and build a strong foundation for future projects. It will promote stewardship and sustainability and it will demonstrate a commitment to supporting healthy active lifestyles, community connections, and access to nature.

According to the strategy's final draft, all of what will be accomplished will bolster community identity and economy development opportunities.

"A kind of one-stop shop collection of information that would really, really put the municipality into a good place," Kelly said of the document.

The final draft consists of six key sections and about 124 pages, plus appendices. A balance of text, graphics, and photographs capture existing trail conditions, community engagement, analysis, and recommendations on how to move forward.

The process was done in three phases from background research in fall 2023 to winter 2024.

"We had a pretty decent first impression," he said. "We went up there and said this is such a beautiful landscape."

What wasn't seen was the organization of trail environments, its access, and how impacts of use are dealt with.

"Those sort of things that do happen when we have beautiful places and how we get these managed," Kelly said.

Regarding the trail network's supporting infrastructure, he said access points are difficult to locate and some trail assets are beyond their life expectancy.

"It's the infrastructure that sometimes adds to the place, giving characteristics of such a beautiful landscape and really identify and put on the map the municipality," he said.

Issues to address include trail management to support cycling, wayfinding and signage, and increasing safety measures on multi-use trails.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall noticed that $120,000 has been allotted for wayfinding in the strategy's implementation budget.

"Did you had any opportunity to look at what's already been developed by previous trails committee within Highlands East, the signage and various mapping that have been done by them?" Ryall said.

Jacklyn Short, the project lead at pl.ural, referenced the existing kiosks and trail signs that are currently in place. She said current signage is in disrepair and doesn't conform to current trail sign standards.

"I think that's certainly a great foundation," she said. "And there's some really great information available. What we were finding is there is opportunity to create perhaps a more cohesive collection of that sort of signage."

Notice will be given before McColl's Road bridge work begins

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Highlands East has put pen to paper on the contract to replace the bridge on McColl's Road.

There is a short window of time for the road to be closed to replace the bridge structure. The proposed work may commence prior to the anticipated July start of construction.

Perry Kelly, the township's public works operations manager, said the area residents will be given a week's notice before work starts.

"Any other work, deck removal, so on and so forth, it said in the contract to give 72 hours advance notice to the public before commencing," he said.

The contract to replace the McColl's Road bridge over Irondale River in Gooderham has been awarded to McPherson Andrews Contracting Ltd. Municipal staff are in the process of working out an agreement to complete the required work.

The contract has a price tag of $470,075.90, plus taxes.

The total amount for this project that was inked in the 2025 municipal capital and operating budget was $667,000.

Kelly said it is anticipated that no in-water work or working near water will take place as part of the job. McPherson Andrews Contracting Ltd. will also not be disturbing the existing footprint of the abutments or wing walls.

The bridge replacement project was first identified in 2023. It was originally noted during inspections in 2022 that the structure needed immediate repairs to keep the bridge open.

A replacement was deemed necessary through those inspections by the engineering firm that completed the 2022 inspection.

Work was completed to secure the structure until the municipality could work towards the replacement of the bridge.

In 2023, staff hired an engineering firm to complete a geotechnical assessment and report for the McColl's bridge structure.

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Highlands East volunteers acknowledged

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A full house at the Wilberforce Legion on March 3 to recognize and celebrate the community's volunteers. /photo submitted

MP Jamie Schmale with Highlands East volunteer Brenda Boomhouer, who was recognized for her work with the Royal Canadian Legion. /photos submitted

MP Jamie Schmale with volunteer Ken Mott, who has worked tirelessly to ensure food banks and heat banks are able to provide for the community.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities, and MP Jamie Schmale has had a busy few weeks traveling across the region to celebrate them.

Schmale's riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, which has a population of 122,401, received over 100 applications for the King Charles III Coronation Medal. The award is designed to acknowledge and celebrate individuals who have made an impactful difference to a particular province, territory, region, or community in Canada. Out of the many applications, Schmale and his team were able to identify 30 individuals across the riding who really stood out.

In Highlands East, two residents were celebrated at the Wilberforce Legion on March 4 with the medals.

First up was Kenn Mott. Mott was the co-founder of the Haliburton County Heat Bank in 2013, which provides access to heat for those in need across the county. He has also spent the past decade volunteering with the Wilberforce Food Bank, often working over 30 hours a week at the facility to ensure everyone is taken care of. Last year, he drove over 25,00 kilometres, which resulted in over 120,000 pounds of food being distributed across the county.

"Ken's selflessness is evident in the countless hours he spends on the road, handling heavy loads, and ensuring that food reaches its destination," read a letter submitting Mott's name for nomination of the King Charles Medal. "Despite the physical demands and long hours, Ken remains humble, often unaware of the immense impact he has on so many lives."

The second recipient of the day was Brenda Boomhouer, who was recognized for her ongoing work in the community, specifically with the Royal Canadian Legion and Ladies Auxiliary.

For over a decade, Boomhouer developed, fundraised, and managed a program by the name of Vet II Vet, which specializes in peer support for Veterans experiencing post traumatic stress disorder.

Through the program, 12 Veterans and their families are selected each year to receive free accommodations, meals, and outdoor activities. Boomhouer navigated much of this work while battling cancer herself, and mourning the loss of her beloved husband, Bill, in 2024.

The Wilberforce Legion had a full house to watch the two residents be awarded the prestigious medals. "I was very pleased," said Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton. "These are both very worth recipients."

Burton noted that he has had the pleasure of working with both Boomhouer and Mott over the years, through a variety of volunteer opportunities. He shared that both recipients of the medal have been instrumental in adding to the vibrancy and well-being of the municipality. "On behalf of Highlands East, I want to extend our deepest appreciation for our volunteers," he said. "Highlands East is blessed to have them."

Medals are still being handed out across the riding, and future recipients will be featured as the information becomes public.

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Reform + Restore; adapting to the needs of community

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Taking risks comes with a guaranteed level of uncertainty.

But one thing that's always been clear for Shay Hutchings and Sarah Comer Dollo, is that they will never slow down.

The owners of Reform + Restore: Wellness Hub have been actively growing and expanding their business based on the needs of the community, since they first opened their doors two years ago.

Many would recall that the space was formerly known as simply 'The Wellness Hub,' but Hutchings and Dollo adapted with the needs. "This change happened organically as our business structure changed and the demand from our clientele grew," Hutchings said. "We quickly felt this shift was what was needed as our community rapidly increased."

With the shift in name came the natural change for growth. The Hub expanded their team to a dozen different instructors, and have started offering new classes such as Circuit, Total Body, Kickboxing, Pedal + Pump, Restorative Mobility and different styles of spin classes. "Having the opportunity to expand our team and add classes has allowed us to accommodate different schedule demands and ensure there is a class to meet all fitness goals," said Dollo.

Locals would recognize Hutchings and Dollo from around the community. With both being active members interwoven into the many veins of the Highlands, they have also always called the Haliburton Highlands 'home'.

Expanding and operating their own business from the place that raised them is something that resonates with the owners, and it's a key factor that they are hoping to carry forward with their team. "The majority of our team resides in Haliburton County and has been a part of our community since the Hub opened," shared Hutchings. "Having these like-minded individuals, who are also community-driven, sparks creativity, energy and passion within the Hub."

Dollo added that with the expansion of the team comes a natural synergy and energy to the space. "With each of them showcasing their individual passions in fitness, that is a large reason for the expansion of the schedule and classes now being offered," she said.

As their tiny dream of a fitness studio continues to evolve, grow, and blossom into something new, vibrant, and different, Hutchings and Dollo naturally look back to the village that has supported them every step of the way. "We have immense gratitude to our community for their continued support as we continue to pivot and grow," said Dollo. "And to our team, we truly can't thank you enough for matching our dedication, passion and commitment to our community. Our dream wouldn't be coming true without all of you," added Hutchings. "We are proud to be your one-stop shop for all things fitness and wellness."

The crew of coaches and trainers who have joined the team at Reform + Restore. In the front are Shay Hutchings and Sarah Comer Dollo, the founders of the facility. /photo by Studio K

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This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

Questions?
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points of view

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Five years

FIVE YEARS ago today, I was toying between the idea of shutting down my computer, or simply letting it sleep.

I am notorious for letting my computer drift to sleep; leaving the steady rattle and hum act as white noise for my forever busy brain.

But five years ago, I thought that maybe I should shut it down.

Just one of those niggling little feelings. We were told it would be two weeks (at the most) until we would return to our offices. No one was really sure why. At the time, the talk around the water cooler was about "Corona" virus. Many references to beer and limes were made.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

So I shut my computer down. Optimistic about the many updates I'd been putting off, finally getting a chance to maneuver my server. It'll be ready to roll in two weeks.

I never saw that computer again.

Two weeks turned into two months turned into two years, and beyond.

And one of the most significant events in human history, unfolded before our very eyes.

The COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down exactly five years ago, this very week. And that's a number that stands out to me.

Five years? That went so fast.

Five years? That went so slow.

Five years? So much has changed.

Five years? So much feels the same.

There is not a single person I know who came through that pandemic unscathed. Millions died. I remember looking up numbers each and every day; pulled into a vortex of doom and gloom because for some reason, that number was at least something tangible. A rock I could hold on to while the river raged around me.

It wasn't long before we were baking bread, learning TikTok dances, walking our dogs and changing the side of the street we were on in an effort to avoid mixing and mingling air particles.

And we were the lucky ones.

For me? I changed my career a few times over that journey. From a municipal staffer to a stay-at-home-schooler in one fell swoop.

And while there was an abundance of uncertainty and sadness, there was also such joy in the glimmers of the world. The books we read and the movies we watched and a pace for day-to-day life that finally allowed us to take a deep breath from the hustle and buzz of the world.

And I am still acutely aware of the economic impacts the pandemic had on our rural world; I still hear the word 'covid' at least once a day. I know this, because I am actively keeping track of it; noting the ebbs and flows of conversations and how so many anchor to that term.

It was a starting point for so many. An ending point for others. Before Covid or After Covid; the meaningful markers for a time of certainty versus a never-ending drop.

When I see a group of people now, laughing and smiling with one another, sometimes it still feels wrong. Like I wasn't sure it was something we ever could do again, ever would do again.

But here we are. Five years later. And while none of us are unscathed, we can't deny that we didn't somehow change, adapt, survive, and grow.

It went so fast.

It went so slow.

Turns out we all shut down, and installed some new updates.

Fairy umbrellas, getting ready for March showers. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Another point of view

SHE STRETCHED and yawned, letting her muscles lengthen and flex. The sun pouring in through the window was almost heady in its brilliance and Samantha wasn't sure if she wanted to move or stay where she was. Still lingering in the air was the faintest scent of the salmon sandwiches they had for lunch. Actually it was Mildred who had the sandwich. All Samantha got was a taste slyly offered.

Any minute now Mildred would don her coat for her afternoon walk. She always asked Samantha if she wanted to accompany her. Sometimes yes, sometimes no – it depended on what Samantha's mood was at the time of asking.

Here it comes, she thought: the question. "Want to go out Sam? It's a nice day for a walk." Samantha didn't respond. Instead she gazed impassively at the woman. But eventually she roused herself, gave a good long stretch because she really wasn't in any hurry – Mildred be damned – and then ambled over to the door. When Mildred opened the door for both of them, Samantha moved ahead first. Sniffing the air for any sign of surprise or adventure, she was disappointed that nothing exciting was happening out there.

Being early spring, few birds had returned and there was mud everywhere. Samantha loved birds and hated mud so what should she do? Like the song goes - should she go or should she stay?

Behind her, Mildred was fussing. She couldn't decide whether to turn right or left at the end of the driveway. "Oh for heavens' sake!" Samantha thought and set out on her own. Mildred caught up.

Ahead loomed the big hill. Samantha liked that hill because at the very top was a large boulder with a slight indentation that fit her shape perfectly. From that vantage point she could see her house, the yard and anyone or anything heading her way. It gave her a feeling of safety and superiority all at the same time. A good combination. No surprises to catch her off guard and demand a quick retreat.

While Mildred chatted away about the weather and what she had planned for dinner, Samantha plodded along behind her, wishing for a little peace. Why did Mildred always have to talk? she wondered, taking long graceful steps to get the most benefit from the exercise.

Mrs. Baker from the next farm was approaching. Samantha swore under her breath when she saw Bruno tagging along. Fortunately he was on a leash. Samantha remember having a run-in with Bruno a few months ago and it had not been pleasant. Bruno had managed to exit the house before Baker-lady could snap on his leash.

Samantha had been outside at the time, watching over the world from that favourite rock, when she saw the whole thing. Mrs. Baker panicking as Bruno lunged outside. Of course he made a beeline for Samantha but she saw him coming and did a quick escape. That raggedy old birch could always be counted on in an emergency. She stayed in it long after Bruno had left. There was something about being high up on a branch that gave Samantha a feeling of superiority.

Down

sharon lynch

Our road

Now Mrs. Baker and Bruno had stopped and were talking with Mildred. Bruno was looking in Samantha's direction, willing her to come closer which of course she had no intention of doing. Dogs are so dumb, she thought. As if I'd give him a chance to get near me. And even if he did, I'd give him something to remember me by.

She recalled, with a shiver of delight, the time she nailed Cathy the Cocker Spaniel squarely on the nose. Imagine that canine thinking she could just waltz up to Samantha and be friends.

Wait – what was that she just heard? Mildred was telling Mrs. Baker she'd be happy to dog sit tomorrow. Samantha couldn't believe it. Mildred knew how she felt about dogs. And Bruno would want to be all friendly, rolling his ball toward her and everything.

It was at this point Samantha began to seriously contemplate running away. Again. For at least two days. That would teach Mildred. After all it worked last time and Samantha ended up with extra treats for a week.

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points of view

Using the old noodle

steve galea

Loon Tales

IT WAS Jenn's turn to cook so I walked into the kitchen and asked her what she was making for dinner.

"Spaghetti," she replied. "But don't worry. I didn't make too much this time."

"Whew," I replied, though I knew she was lying.

Everyone always makes too much spaghetti.

Look, I love spaghetti as much as most people – maybe more. But the thing I don't love is leftover spaghetti, especially if it has been refrigerated for more than a day. Neither does Jenn.

In fact, I'm certain that in the history of spaghetti, there has never been a person with functioning taste buds who has ever been a fan of refrigerated, leftover spaghetti. OK, that's not quite true. My best friend, who is diabetic, says he's a fan of it because he was told refrigerated spaghetti has less carbs. But, then again, since when does anyone actually like the taste of food that has less carbs?

Regardless, in our home, about once a week, we typically make more spaghetti than we need– and, since it is filling and you can only eat so much, the leftover spaghetti piles up. It's so bad that if you looked in our fridge at any given time, you might think we were Italian preppers – or, as I believe they call it, prepperonis.

Oh sure, we try not to waste it. We'll reheat the odd Tupperware container full of spaghetti for lunch the next day in hopes of reviving it to its former glory. And, rarely, we'll even do that to two-day old spaghetti. But it's never nearly as good as it once was.

I liken leftover spaghetti to those frozen bananas everyone has in their freezer – you know, the ones that went bad waiting for someone to consume them. We all place them in the cold with the best intentions. We hope that one day they'll be repurposed as smoothies, banana bread or in a banana-flavoured meal of some sort. But years go by, and those bananas wait in the freezer and that spaghetti waits in the back of the fridge, cold and lonely, with all hope lost.

Sadly, there is no recipe that calls for frozen bananas and leftover spaghetti in the same meal. So, one day when we, or some archaeologists uncover them, they will get thrown out, but only to make room for more.

That's why I was happy to hear that Jenn made just enough for us. She had intuitively recognized that we had a problem. I guess this happened when she looked in the fridge and saw three Tupperware containers full of leftover spaghetti. I'm not going to tell you that they were all too old, but let's just say one of them was housed in pottery with the word spaghetti spelled out in hieroglyphs.

The good news is that this will soon no longer be an issue in our house, due to Jenn's diligence. Who else would have thought to read the instructions and follow the recommended portions?

This is obviously the way things should move forward. You see a problem. You look at what you are doing. You correct it.

But to do that, you first have to admit that you were wrong and then commit to finding a better way. That takes some level of humility. That's why I'm happy to say, when it comes to spaghetti, in our house, we have learned from our pasta mistakes.

pic *of the* past

Psychology Discussion Summer, 1952. Red Umbrella Inn Carnarvon, Ont. Pictured, Donald Fordham, Joan B., Winnie Fordham, Dorthy Peck, Joanne MacLean, Mazie Harrison, Eleanor Ownes, Franny Bulser and Barb Harrison. Pics of the past are submitted, therefore we can not always ensure accuracy in all names.

Impaired driving charges increase slightly in Eastern Ontario

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers across East Region have seen a slight increase in the number of impaired drivers so far this year.

327 drivers have been arrested and charged so far this year, compared to 319 at this time in 2024.

"We know impaired driving can be deadly. We encourage every driver to consider the potential impact of their actions on their own lives and the lives of everyone else on the road. Never drive impaired," said Chief Superintendent Lisa Wilhelm, OPP East Region Commander.

OPP officers across eastern Ontario are on the roads day and night looking for those who engage in dangerous driving habits like impaired driving. RIDE programs can happen anywhere, anytime.

If you suspect someone is driving impaired or see someone driving dangerously and putting lives at risk, call 9-1-1.

Submitted

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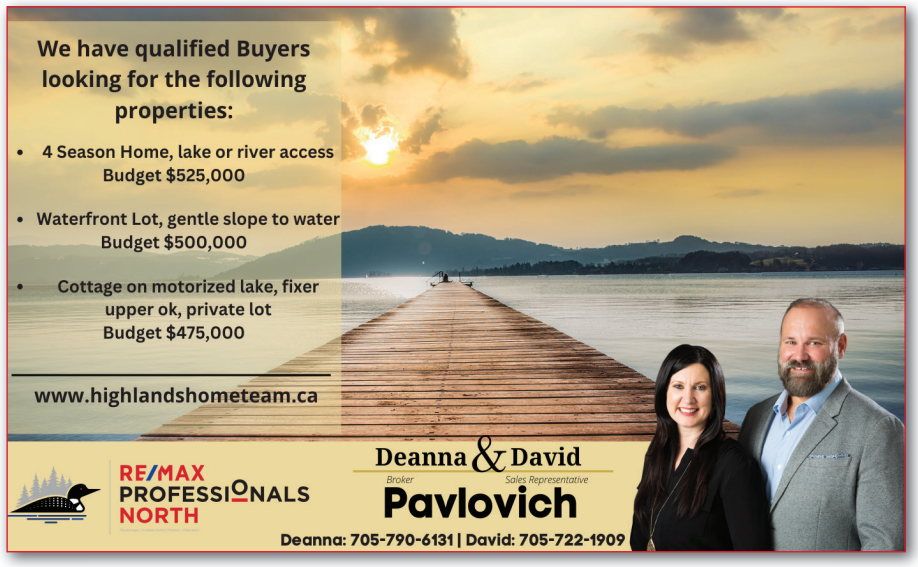
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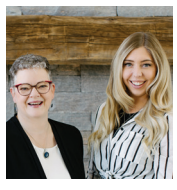

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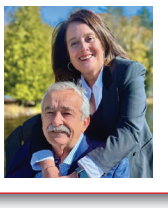

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March 20 - 23

RE/MAX Professionals North, Brokerage will be at the Spring Cottage Life Show.

If you are thinking of selling your property this is a great opportunity to promote it. Contact a local RE/MAX agent for more details.

Haliburton Happenings
March Break edition

The Haliburton Echo welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands through the seasons. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com for a chance to be featured in *Haliburton Happenings.*

Olivia, Hazel and Marshall Townsend, with their mom, Michelle, having some fun in the sun over March Break in Haliburton. /submitted by Michelle Townsend

A few SIRCH volunteers take a break to dance to Gord Kidd's music at the SIRCH Bistro's St. Patrick's Day luncheon. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Maple Avenue Restaurant hosted an afternoon of Irish music this past weekend in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. /photo submitted by Peter Smith

Teia Wilson, Evelyn Mardus and Lily Smith spent some time at the Bridge Youth Centre in Haliburton over March Break. /photo submitted by Leanne Young

Gord Kidd rocks out on March 12 at the SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The first part of the March Break was perfect for hitting the slopes! Lots of people made the most of it before the rain started. /photo submitted by Jordana Bain

Hal High student artists share creativity and talent in youth art exhibition

Students artists from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School shared their creative works in the third annual Under 19 Juried Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Bancroft. Thirteen artists submitted a total of 17 creative works in the regional showcase juried by visual artist and education Henry Melissa Gordon, who currently resides in Guelph, Ontario.

Several Red Hawk artists received recognition from the juror, including Olivia Brown, who's still life drawing *Moments in Time*, received the Best Drawing award. Gordon described Brown's work as "skillful and interesting." She notes that "it feels like a personal collection of objects that tells us something about the artist. It takes lots of drawing skill to show the different textures of hair, fabric, flowers, a screen, book cover and pages, and a ceramic mug." Brown is in Grade 12 and will graduate this year.

Grade 10 artist Sophia Burke received the award for Best Painting or Mixed Media work, for her acrylic on canvas work entitled *if you're so full of love, why don't you give yourself some?* Gordon stated that Burke's painting "beautifully captures a quiet, introspective moment. The composition feels right…I love the gold highlights where the legs and arms disappear into the water. The title really deepens our understanding of the painting."

Grade 9 student Annika Gervais also received an Honourable Mention in this category for her mixed media work *Open Your Eyes*. Gordon wrote: "There is a great progression in this artwork, from overwhelm and anxiety to hopefulness. The combination of drawing and collage works well to support this powerful message!"

It was a bittersweet moment for student artist Annabelle Borgdorff, who has participated in the show since its inauguration three years ago. Borgdorff will graduate this year and she took some time to reflect on this movement in her life in her mixed media work, *The Final Curtsy*.

An opening reception was held on Friday, March 6 which was attended by many of the student artists. The exhibition is presented by Karen and Gord Savage and runs at the Art Gallery of Bancroft until March 29.

Submitted

Alivia Brown shares her oil pastel drawings. /submitted

Hal High student artists at the opening of the third annual Under 19 Student Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Bancroft.

Olivia Brown with her work Moments in Time, which received the award for Best Drawing.

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Plans for wild game dinner 'right on schedule'

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is nearly ready for their 31st annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction. An event that began in 1993, the event was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but has been continuing on in recent years.

"Everything is right on schedule," said Dan Smith, president of the HHOA.

This year's menu will include a variety of wild and domestic meats. The wild meats will include moose, bear, bison, elk, boar, and venison. Domestic meats such as ham, beef, meatballs, and boar will be available. Smith says that there will also be mashed potatoes, beans, and a duck with wild rice soup served. For dessert, a pound cake with caramel sauce will be served.

"Our dinner does really well," said Smith. " People come and have a good time."

This year, the Wild Game Auction and Dinner will not be having a 50/50 draw. Instead of a 50/50, the HHOA will be having a raffle for a Henry Long Ranger .308. The rifle was donated by the Muir family, owners of Silver Eagle Cottages on Eagle Lake. Tickets for the raffle for the rifle are available at Outdoors Plus or at the dinner itself. Tickets are $20 per ticket, or three for $50. Smith reports that over 125 of the 200 tickets available have been sold.

Starting April 1, the HHOA will have eight inch rainbow trout hatchlings for sale. The fish are priced at $2.50 each and will be sold to individuals who have private water to stock the fish such as backyard ponds and private lakes. These rainbow trout can be purchased either in-person or by paying over the phone by credit card, or through e-transfer.

With operations of the hatchery costing around $80,000 per year, the HHOA uses the Wild Game Dinner and Auction, the raffle, and the sale of trout to raise funds for their operations. While the HHOA is run entirely by volunteers, things such as the lights, food for the fish, and administrative costs add up, says Smith. Since 1992, the HHOA has stocked over 800,000 fish in Haliburton County, strictly through volunteer commitment.

The HHOA receives no funding from the government and relies entirely on private donations from businesses and the public and through fundraising events. The HHOA's goal is to maintain the fishery in Haliburton County, while also improving it for future generations and visitors.

"We're all there for the same purpose," said Smith. "Of conservation and learning the best spots to fish."

While fishing in Haliburton County, the HHOA has requested that if you catch a large trout with a clipped fin, to take a photo of it, and measure its length and circumference. They also ask that the large trout is put back for future generations of trout. Any information collected from a stocked fish should be sent to the HHOA or the Ministry of Natural Resources. This data will be collected and used to determine stocking numbers and fish populations in the future.

Tickets for the Wild Game Dinner and orders for rainbow trout can be placed by contacting Linda at the HHOA at 705-457-9664 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Skyline Dance Studio presents 2025 showcase – tickets on sale

Skyline Dance Studio is thrilled to present its 2025 Showcase on Saturday, March 29 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. This exciting event will feature two performances at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., showcasing all pre-competitive numbers from the studio's talented young dancers.

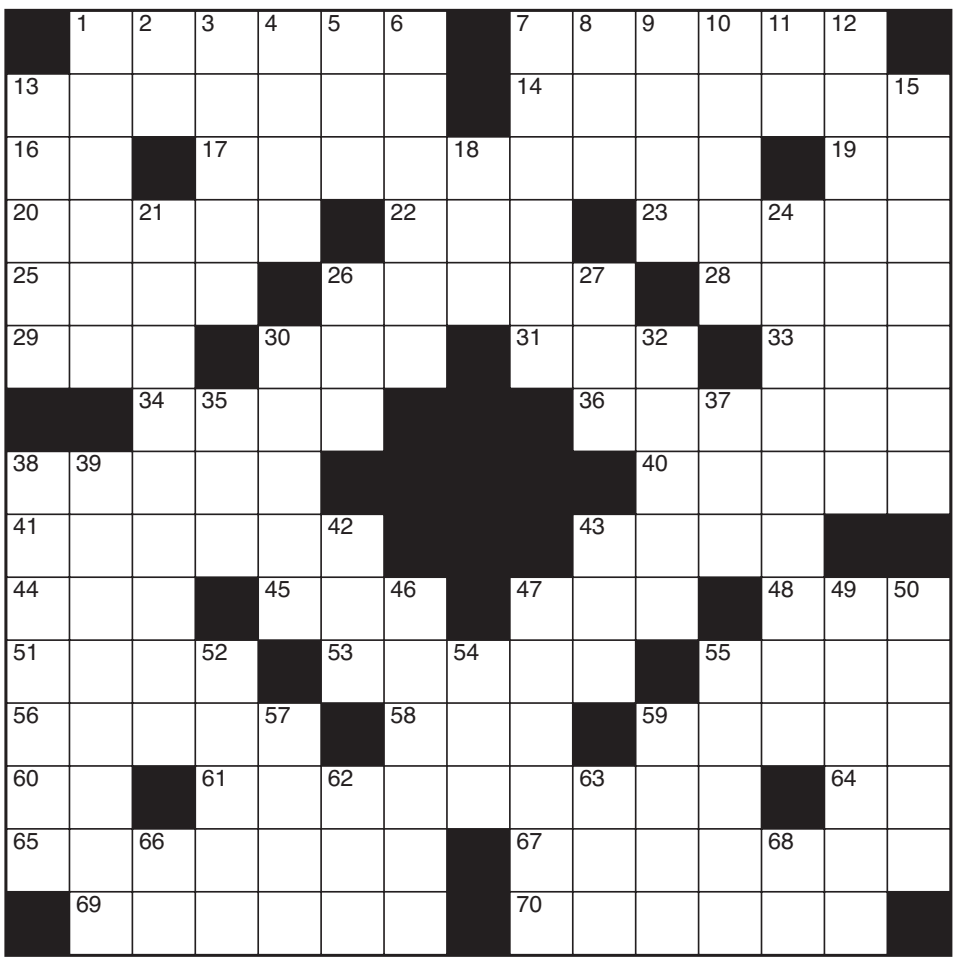
The showcase promises an afternoon and evening of artistry, passion, and entertainment, with a show length of two hours and 45 minutes.

Tickets are available for purchase online via social media and website.

Skyline Dance Studio is a community-based non-profit organization, dedicated to fostering a love of dance and the performing arts for youth in Haliburton and the surrounding area. For more information about the studio and its programs, visit skylinedancestudio.ca

Submitted

Flood watch
Mallard Road off of Industrial Park Road flooded this past weekend in response to the rainfall. At the time of press, the road was closed off from this angle. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*



CLUES ACROSS
1. Dark blacks
7. Construct a wall to confine
13. Most inappropriate
14. A type of board
16. Sacred Hindu syllable
17. Flatterer
19. The Granite State
20. Tears down
22. China's Chairman
23. Former Houston footballer
25. Periods of time
26. Expressed pleasure
28. World alliance
29. A Brit's mother
30. Television network
31. Brother or sister
33. Type of spirit
34. __ Ladd, actor
36. A medium oversees it
38. One time province of British India
40. Wrong
41. The highest parts of something
43. Insect
44. Baseball stat
45. A way to use up
47. Where wrestlers compete
48. It helps elect politicians
51. As fast as can be done
53. Genus of legumes
55. Samoa's capital
56. Monument in Jakarta
58. Former French coin
59. Exploiters
60. College sports official
61. Uninterrupted in time
64. Stephen King story
65. Marked by no sound
67. Weathers
69. Denouncements
70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN
1. Winged nut
2. It cools a home
3. Kisses (French)
4. Oxford political economist
5. Keyboard key
6. Leaf pores
7. Agrees with publicly
8. Not around
9. Czech city
10. Muscle cell protein
11. Greek letter
12. Movements
13. Ned __, composer
15. Popular series Game of __
18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
21. Helper
24. Gift
26. Up in the air (abbr.)
27. Treat without respect
30. Trims
32. Slang for lovely
35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
37. Guitarists' tool
38. Island nation
39. Delivered in installments
42. A baglike structure
43. Cooking vessel
46. Gets in front of
47. Wounded by scratching
49. More breathable
50. Medical dressings
52. Indiana hoopster
54. Married Marilyn
55. An ancient Assyrian city
57. Congressmen (abbr.)
59. Approves food
62. Ventura's first name
63. Between northeast and east
66. Atomic #71
68. Email designation

Answers on page 15

Wilberforce food programs aim to level the playing field

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

Throughout Sandra MacDonald's career, she has seen an increased need for food programs in schools across Ontario. Working as a school administrator in places like Peterborough and Bowmanville, MacDonald has started food programs at each school, allowing students to have access to nutritious food.

"You can't learn on an empty stomach," she said.

Partnering with The Children's Breakfast Clubs, Wilberforce Elementary began to offer hot breakfasts to students in 2022. In 2023, with increasing demand, the school expanded the program to include hot lunches as well.

"We have students attending on a more regular basis and I am convinced this is because they know that they will be getting breakfast and lunch everyday," said Principal Gordon Wood. "It also benefits parents because they don't have to worry about packing a lunch for their child."

This past January, Central Food Network's (CFN) Tina Jackson says that they received 50 requests for assistance with heating or hydro emergencies, the most they have ever received in a single month.

Over 170 people were served at the Highlands East Food Hub in Wilberforce in January, with nearly 40 more people seeking assistance than in January of 2024. Over 110 people received assistance from the Cardiff Community Food Bank as well, an increase of 10 people since 2024.

"There is a tipping point on the horizon," said Jackson. "The food banks cannot meet the need."

In order to meet the growing needs for food assistance in Ontario, Jackson says that public policy needs to be changed. With a lack of government support, community food banks cannot rely on the kindness of corporations and private donors forever.

As a smaller, rural area, Highlands East does not have the same amenities that larger cities such as Peterborough and Bracebridge have. Highlands East has access to a limited shuttle service, but Jackson says that many residents, especially those that are elderly, struggle to travel to where the shuttle service can pick them up. There is one tiny grocery store to serve the area and the majority of Highlands East residents are post-work with a low income.

"It is more than just having the means to put food on the table," said Jackson. Many issues contribute to the abject poverty in Highlands East, including physical access to healthy and nutritious foods, food literacy (knowledge for how to prepare foods), and how to eat healthily.

Both Jackson and MacDonald say that access to healthy foods is a huge challenge for them. MacDonald says a large portion of donated foods are highly processed and filled with things like corn syrup and lack substantial nutritional value. These donations of high carbohydrate, high sugar foods are one of many contributing factors to high obesity rates in impoverished areas in Ontario.

Jackson says that in addition to the low nutritional content of donated foods, there are many difficulties with transporting fresh produce.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, CFN offered food workshops to Grade Eights at Wilberforce Elementary School, but due to volunteer attrition, have not been able to run the program again. Jackson says that the program taught students how to have a healthy relationship with food.

"If you think back to those days as a kid, how stigmatizing it is to be accepted," said Jackson. " Or how stigmatizing it is to access these programs.

During the pandemic, Central Food Network began deliveries of hampers of food to residents who needed them. Since its inception in 2020, volunteer drivers have driven thousands of kilometres to deliver hampers to residents.

According to the 2021 Census, the average after-tax income of residents from Highlands East was $65,900. Dysart et al had an average after-tax income of $84,200. While Highlands East has a smaller population size, it is apparent that the region does not have the same economic opportunities for its residents as the rest of Haliburton County.

CFN is grateful for anyone that donates food to their food banks. However, they are unable to accept severely dented cans, shelf stable foods that are too far past their due date, and food not deemed to be fit for consumption.

"We work really hard and continue to try to work hard to give the greatest amount of selection," said Jackson.
The CFN caters to a variety of diets and listens to the preferences of their clients to help keep their bellies full.

Recently, the CFN conducted a survey with clientele from their Cardiff Community Food Bank and found that the greatest desired foods include fresh fruit and produce, eggs, and canned or frozen proteins.

Jackson says that there has not been a noticeable difference from the tariffs imposed by the United States, but they have spent time projecting areas in which they will be impacted and are committed to using local foods whenever possible. While it has not impacted costs yet, they are sure the tariffs will impact families, resulting in more visitors and reducing the amount of donations they receive.

> ***"When you don't have enough money to have transportation or cover basic needs, it is exhausting."***
>
> — Tina Jackson, CFN

CFN says that cash is the most flexible of any donation they could receive, but they are open to any donations of food, period products, pet foods, and beyond.

For those that have their own gardens, the CFN accepts produce grown locally. They refer to this as their Grow-A-Row program and ask that, if you are able, to dedicate one row of products from your garden to be donated when harvested. Some products that CFN has received in the past from their Grow-A-Row program include tomatoes, zucchinis, pears, and rhubarb.

"When you don't have enough money to have transportation or cover basic needs, it is exhausting," said Jackson. "It's something that people with moderate income take for granted."

One elderly client that received assistance was unable to travel to their own mailbox to pay their bills. With the deep snow this winter, getting their mail became a whole day ordeal, leading them to seek assistance with regaining hydro services.

The individuals who use their services are doing everything that they can to support their families, assures Jackson. There are still great stigmas against people that utilize food banks to survive. Many still think that laziness, addiction issues, and moral failings lead to poverty and needing to rely on the food bank, but that is rarely the case.

Jackson says that the need for food accessibility has never been higher in Highlands East.

The breakfast and lunch programs at Wilberforce Elementary School are not only a way to keep young and developing minds fed, but an opportunity for the students to come together, to share a meal, and bond with a shared connection. MacDonald and other volunteers run the programs entirely from purchasing and making the food, to serving, to cleaning up. The Wilberforce community is able to come together and nurture its growing population.

MacDonald is retiring soon and fears that without her spearheading the program, the breakfast and lunch program will cease. Without the program, many students will not be able to go to school.

In addition to the food programs, MacDonald pulled some strings to ensure that Santa brought every student a Christmas present last year.

"It is so important that they continue this program that they have created," said Jackson. "It levels the playing field for these kids."

CITIZENS FOR CROWN LAND PROTECTION
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Invite you to join us for an
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Sunday March 23, 2025
2-4PM
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Keep our Crown Land as an unchanged status
C.C.L.P SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED EFFORT OF MNRF, MECP AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN UPHOLDING CURRENT PROTECTIONS; ENSURING FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS FOR ALL.

Textile Recycling
Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services' Thrift Warehouse, Dysart ratepayers can drop off textiles for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

☑ Items you wear "head to foot" (including undergarments)
Clothes (including undergarments and socks), Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jackets, Coats, Belts, Shoes (including single shoes), Jewelry, Purses, Backpacks)

Single and paired shoes accepted

☑ Bedding, Blankets. Curtains, Fabric, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Towels

Success!
In 2024, Dysart collected 28.85 metric tonnes (63,603 lbs) of textiles for recycling!

☑ While textiles should be clean, our textile recycling program also accepts torn, worn out, stained or scrap textiles.

Municipality of Dysart et al
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Relentlessly onward with humanity and hope

January is in the rearview mirror, and it's time to look ahead to spring and Doc(k) Day in Haliburton!

On Saturday, April 5, at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Those Other Movies is excited to bring five documentary films (four full-length and one short) to Haliburton. It is an opportunity to come together as a community to learn, reflect, and consider how to move forward in this world with hope.

The films have local and global connections to the arts, music, sports, and beautiful natural environments. The movies show many aspects of humanity - inspirational, challenging and hopeful.

The lineup for the day is:

- 10:00 a.m.: *Diane Warren: Relentless* (91 min.)
- 11:45 a.m.: *Save Solace* (11 min.) + Question and Answer with the director, Matt Steeves
- Picnic lunch! Bring your own lunch; eat and chat together in the cafeteria.
- 1:30 p.m.: *Porcelain War* (87 min.)
- 3:30 p.m.: *Red Fever* (103 min.)
- 7:30 p.m.: *Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity* (85 min.) + Question and Answer with director Larry Weinstein

The documentary *Diane Warren: Relentless* tells the story of a genius songwriter who has written over 400 songs for iconic artists such as Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Celine Dion, Lady Gaga, Whitney Houston, Britney Spears, and Aerosmith. From humble beginnings, she knew what she wanted to do from a young age and was relentless in pursuing her goal. Believing in herself, daring to be herself in her own way, and never quitting, Diane Warren changed "Impossible" into "I'm possible."

The short, *Save Solace* documents the work of a group advocating to stop the planned construction of a new logging road that would dissect the Solace Wildlands, the last unprotected and roadless forest in Ontario's Temagami wilderness. Joining us will be Director Matt Steeves, who specializes in cinematic storytelling and is driven by a curiosity about the human connection with the natural world.

Porcelain War tells the story of a group of artists from Ukraine who persevere against all odds. The opening scene of a peaceful field, butterflies, and painted porcelain figures contrasts strongly with the destruction caused by war in subsequent scenes. This film shows that while it's easy to make people afraid, it's much harder to destroy their passion for living. This is a beautifully shot film that explores spaces of beauty within destruction. It is a story of love, art, friendship and survival.

Red Fever follows Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond across North America and Europe to look at a multitude of ways in which Indigenous cultures have been reduced to stereotypes. With humour and honesty, he shines a light on appropriation, misappropriation and the impact on Indigenous people.

Our evening film, *Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity* follows nine people around the world who are grappling with the message of hope in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. We hear from a deaf composer, a Polish rock star, an author, a legendary cartoonist and the director, Larry Weinstein. We are very pleased that Mr. Weinstein will be a special guest for the screening. This latest documentary, *Beethoven's Nine,* turned out to be deeply personal with an unexpected event that happened during the filming. Weinstein says he believes that Beethoven wrote the ninth symphony as a love letter to humanity and a love letter to the future. The film looks at the inspiration music can provide and how humanity can continue to look for hope even in the darkest times.

It will be a full day of learning, laughter, love - and maybe even enlightenment. Tickets can be reserved online at www.thoseothermovies.com under the "online store" tab. Tickets are $35 for all five films or $30 for Season Pass holders.

For more information on Doc(k) Day in Haliburton, contact:

thoseothermovieshaliburton@gmail.com

Submitted

Support Woodlands Wildlife

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is having a spring fundraiser! Come and join us for a fun social evening and a delicious dinner at Mulligans Pub and Patio in Minden. Your generous support allows the Sanctuary to continue helping injured and orphaned wildlife. We look forward to seeing you on March 29 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca under the Events tab.

Submitted

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Huskies Hockey

The Huskies have clinched the first round of the playoffs in six games against the St. Michael's Buzzers. Despite winning the series, they lost game three in Minden 4-1 and game four in Minden 2-1. At the time of press, the team is waiting for confirmation on who and when they will be starting the second round of the playoffs. /TIM YANO staff photographer

At the start of game five on Saturday, March 15, long-time Huskies volunteer Klara Oyler was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her dedication to the community over the years. The medal came as a surprise to Oyler, and was given by MPP Laurie Scott prior to the game. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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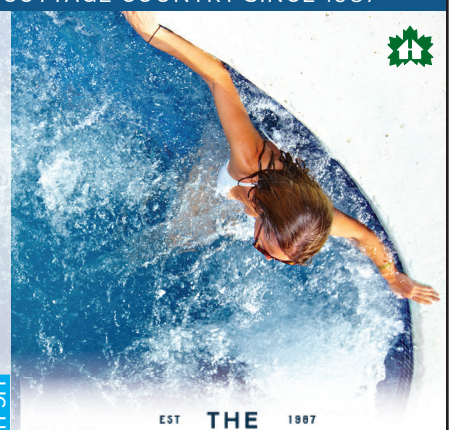

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The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the following positions.

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Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
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In Loving Memory of
Elizabeth Jane Davis (nee Rivers)

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our mom, grandma and great grandma Betty on Friday March 7, 2025 in her 96th year.

Beloved wife of Moss (deceased). Loving mother of Bryan (deceased)(Jackie) and Dennis (Susan). Loving grandmother of Stephen, Corey (Michelle), Dennise (Ron), and Danny (deceased) and great grandmother of Zachary, Adam, Jacob and Moss. Predeceased by her parents Tom and Lucy Rivers and her brothers Sam, John, Joe, Gordon and Milton.

A Private Family Graveside Service and Interment to Celebrate Betty's Life will be held at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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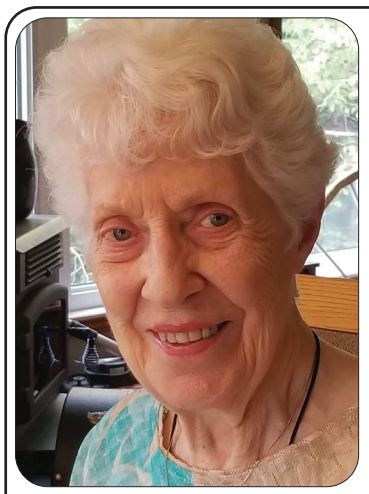

Sarah "Sally" Stirling (nee Naismith)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sarah Stirling (nee Naismith) on March 3, 2025, at the age of 90. Sarah was born on July 31, 1934, in Toronto, the beloved daughter of Thomas and Sarah Naismith (both predeceased.)

Sarah was predeceased by her loving husband Robert and grandson James, who she is now reunited with. She is survived by her two devoted daughters, Janette (Frank) and Judi (Dan). She was a proud grandmother to Corinne, Amy, Ashley, and Daniel, and a cherished great-grandmother to Alexandra, Austin, McKayla, Hollye, Teghan, Hailey, Isaiah, Luca, Hunter, Weston, and Everett. Sarah was also a great-great-grandmother to Hudson and Sawyer, who brought her much joy.

Throughout her life, Sarah demonstrated immense dedication to both her family and her career. She was a pioneering woman who served as a police officer with the Metropolitan Toronto Police before transitioning to a role as a loan supervisor with CIBC. Her hard work and commitment to her professions were matched by her love for those around her.

In 1999 after the death of her husband Robert, Sarah fulfilled their dream of retiring to Wilberforce, where they renovated a century farmhouse that became the center of all family's gatherings. In Wilberforce, Sarah immersed herself in the community, participating in curling, bingo, and countless lunch and dinner gatherings with her neighbors and friends. It was in this picturesque town that she found peace, purpose, and lasting friendships.

Sarah will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and unwavering love for her family. She touched the lives of many, and her memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Graveside Service

A Graveside Service will take place at the **SOUTH WILBERFORCE CEMETERY** in the spring, details to be announced. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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New Haliburton industry avoids pitfalls that keep others away

Allan Espie punches a frame member

by Sue Cooper

Haliburton's newest industry has not fallen into the normal pitfalls which hinder most ideas from getting off the ground. It has not sat idly by waiting for government grants to fund its operation; it has not been plagued by transportation problems and it has not threatened to endanger the area's natural beauty.

What Haliburton Machine and Manufacturing's new greenhouse manufacturing plant has done is provide an initial four new jobs in the community in a season when those jobs are desparately needed and it might also have opened the door for small, clean industry to start locating in the area.

Amazing as it might sound, the idea for manufacturing the greenhouses in the area came from a cottager who approached Murray Burton, owner of the machine shop last year.

After the initial contact with the cottager, Burton found himself with an order to manufacture 100 greenhouse units on a trial basis. Luckily, because of his involvement with Haliburton Machine, Burton had the basic tools needed for bending the galvanized steel frames.

"Once they found it was a worthwhile proposition, they went ahead," Burton said.

With a contract to manufacture the greenhouses, it was necessary to move to a new shop which would be cleaner than the existing machine shop, Burton said. In mid-February the fledgling manufacturing industry moved into the old Curry Motors body shop on Mountain Street, beside the Royal Canadian Legion.

"It's certainly nice and clean," Burton says as he looks around the new shop.

When the operation was set up, cleanliness was considered a high priority since the white boxes the greenhouse kits are shipped in, will be stocked on shelves of retail stores across the province and possibly across the country.

The little factory manufactures the greenhouse frames and packages the unit for sale to stores, Burton said. The galvanized steel, which is supplied by a distributor who had previously dealt with Burton, through the machine shop, is dropped off at the plant's side door.

'When it leaves it's ready for sale'

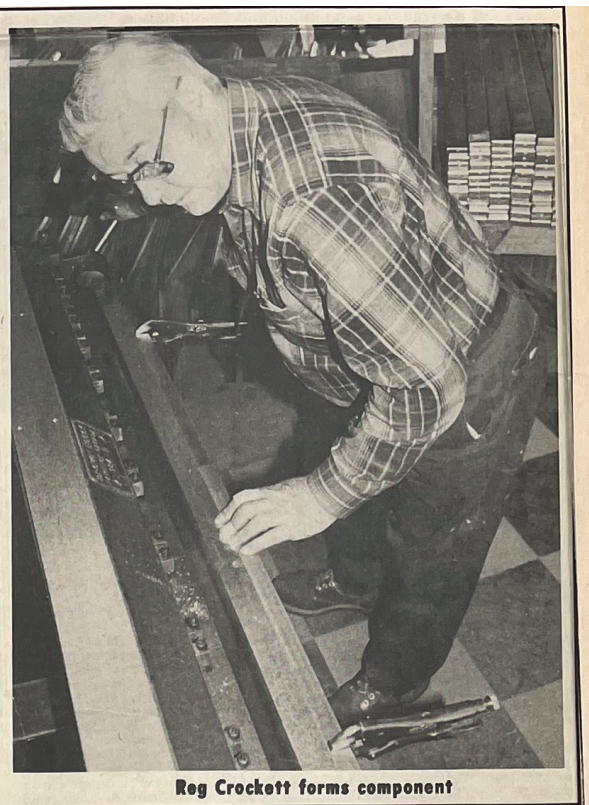
The steel, which must be of high quality, is cut, punched and bent before it starts to look like a greenhouse frame. The whole greenhouse is made of 13 pieces of metal, thick plastic sheeting as well as the usual accompaniment of glue, nuts and bolts and adhesive material.

"When it leaves here it's ready for sale," Burton said.

After purchasing a greenhouse, the consumer can have it set-up between a half hour and an hour, if you allow the glue to set, Burton said.

The steel frame measures 44 inches square at the base and, as Burton says happily, you can put as many units together as you want. Once the frame is set-up, thick plastic covers the unit to let

Cont'd. page 9



Reg Crockett forms component

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 99 No. 29 Wednesday, March 18, 1981 "The voice of the Highlands" 16 pages 25 cents

Concern centre now reaching out

Haliburton's Community Christian Concern Centre was officially opened Sunday afternoon in a brief ceremony attended by close to 100 people.

The centre, located in a two storey brick house beside the Liquor Control Board outlet on the village's main street, is a joint project of local churches, who have banded together in what they term "an historic venture" to reach out to the community. It houses a Christian book store, a lounge for young people, a lounge for senior citizens, an all-purpose room, a kitchen, an upstairs room for prayer and Bible study, and a ministers' counselling office.

Cost of renting the house is being borne jointly by the operators of the book store and the local churches.

A minister from one of the local churches will be on duty three hours each morning, from 9 a.m. to noon for counselling services.

Dysart et al reeve and county warden Murray Fearrey, who cut the ribbon to officially open the centre, dubbed 'The 4 C's', brought best wishes on behalf of the municipality. Later, in a brief speech, he commended the churches on their initiative, noting that the centre should be an asset to the community, particularly if it is successful

Cont'd. page 2

Dysart et al reeve and county warden Murray Fearrey was on hand to cut the ribbon that officially opened the Community Christian Concern Centre in Haliburton, Sunday afternoon. Close to 100 people turned up for the ceremony, despite a fall of wet snow that put a damper on the outside portion of the official opening.

Race gets OSRF okay, dry land track likely

Snowmobile racing in Haliburton County will move into the big leagues later this year when the first Ontario Snowmobile Racing Federation sanctioned race of the season is held at a site that has yet to be established.

Race organizer Pat Kennedy said permission for the race, tentatively scheduled for December 12 and 13, was given at meeting of the OSRF in Orillia last Wednesday.

The move to a sanctioned race has been considered in the past, Kennedy said, but problems this year with poor weather and the ice track on Head Lake provided the final impetus.

Under the scheme proposed by Kennedy and race co-chairman Bob English, a permanent dry land track would be established near Haliburton village. The track would be a half mile long, with 10 degree banking in the corners to conform with OSRF standards, and would be ringed with plywood barriers for the protection of drivers and spectators.

The track is expected to be built in one of two unused gravel pits east of Haliburton owned by the Municipality of Dysart et al. A formal request for use of the pits will be made at council's April meeting. The municipality will also be asked to carry out some of the machine work that will be needed to create the track, Kennedy said in an interview Tuesday.

Funding for the track and a grandstand to seat spectators, is expected to come from corporate sponsorship, grants, and from admission

Cont'd. page 2

Midgets lose two, must win to stay alive

Haliburton Midgets must win at home this Friday to keep their hopes alive in their provincial semi-final match against Havelock. Last Friday, before a home town crowd at the Dysart arena, the Midgets came close, but lost a 6 - 4 decision in the final minutes. Sunday in Havelock, they failed to connect and went down to defeat 8 - 2.

For details of the games, turn to the sports pages.

Illahee Northwoods on Drag Lake chosen as location for new scheme

Dialysis camp to be largest of its kind

by Sue Cooper

Haliburton County will become the site of the largest satellite dialysis unit for children in North America when Camp Dialasun opens this summer.

The camp, operating at Camp Illahee Northwoods on Drag Lake, will allow 45 to 50 children suffering from kidney disease to enjoy camp life for two weeks beginning on July 9, camp coordinator Michael Beirne, of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, said Tuesday.

The camp will be the third of its kind in Canada but Camp Dialasun in Haliburton will be "by far the largest and most sophisticated," Beirne said.

Camp Illahee, operated by the Metro Toronto Family Services Association, presently serves children between the ages of eight and 17 who suffer from medical problems. During normal camp activities, five or six medical staff are on hand but when Camp Dialasun is operating an additional 18 medical staff members will be required. A Nephrologist (kidney specialist), 14 dialysis nurses and three medical technicians will be on hand to help the children with their treatment, Beirne said.

Children attending the camp will be suffering from end stage renal disease involving total and complete failure of the kidneys, Beirne said. Some children might have received transplants and require frequent examinations to discover kidney failure or body rejection. Others might require peritoneal dialysis which is a filtration of the blood through a filter by normal body functions to clean the toxic waste. The most severe cases will require mechanical dialysis five to nine hours every second day to cleanse the blood.

While the dialysis machines are the most important aspect of Camp Dialasun, they also create a problem because of special plumbing and electrical needs, Beirne said.

The camp needs a 1200 to 1400 foot square building to house the three machines it owns and the three additional machines which will be borrowed from hospitals for the two weeks.

With the need for a building, the cost of the camp is over $100,000, which organizers hope to raise through donations from the general public, Beirne said.

It is hoped that individual communities might help sponsor a child who will be

Cont'd. page 2

Turnout 'average' at advance polls

The advance polls in the Victoria-Haliburton riding recorded an average turnout, according to the returning office.

During the three days, last Thursday, Saturday and Monday, 1,437 voters turned out to mark their ballots, Kaye Boyd said Tuesday.

Advance polls were held in Minden, Haliburton, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon and Lindsay.

Terms of reference to be drafted

Minden council plans zoning by-law update

Anson, Hindon and Minden council may have taken its first positive step towards providing better planning guidelines in the municipality. At council's regular meeting last Wednesday, the Ministry of Housing was authorized to draft terms of reference for a major update of the restricted area By-law 14-67.

Pat Vanini, planner with the Ministry of Housing, presented council with the advantages and disadvantages of undertaking a major update or writing a new by-law, at council's regular meeting last Wednesday.

While the cost of a major update and a new by-law would be similar, Vanini said final costs would depend largely on the consultants who are hired to complete the work.

Updating the existing by-law could be advantageous since the staff are accustomed to working with the document, Vanini said.

However, the updated by-law might be confusing for the public to deal with since they would have to delve through two documents at once to have a total understanding of the restricted area by-law, Vanini told council.

It might also be difficult for the public to understand where an amendment made five years ago fits into the new update and this might also create problems if future consolidation of the two documents was considered, Vanini said.

On the other hand, Vanini said, the new by-law would be "very applicable to the municipality." It probably would not require the number of amendments needed to keep the old by-law 14-67, in working order since many changes in legislation have taken place since 1967 when the original by-law was written.

Vanini also pointed out that the old by-law doesn't take into consideration the county's development strategy which councils are expected to use as a planning basis in their municipalities.

Cont'd. page 2

Council's set their pay for the coming year

While some area councils will be upping their rates of remuneration this year, other councils are still doing municipal work for the same wages as last year.

Last Wednesday, Anson, Hindon and Minden council granted raises to council members. The reeve's wage of $4,250 will remain the same as last year but the expense allowance will be increased $250 to $1,000. The deputy-reeve will receive $3,500, up from $2,875 and his expense allowance will be increased to $750 from $575. Councillors also get an increase of $375 bringing their remuneration to $3,000 per year while expenses increased $25 to $550. Councillors living outside the village of Minden receive 22 cents per mile for all council meetings they must attend. These usually amount to four meetings per month.

Snowdon also raised its remuneration this term. Last year the reeve received $1,100 while he'll get $2,000 this year. The deputy-reeve will be paid $1,800, up $800 and councillors' wages were increased to $1,600 from $900.

Cont'd. page 2

Figure skaters from the Haliburton and Minden skating clubs got together over the weekend to put on a show in Haliburton, Saturday night and Minden Sunday afternoon. Here the skaters are shown in the finale. For more pictures and a story, turn to page 8.

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$595,000

NEW LISTING

3 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X12019003

GELERT ROAD
$575,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12009789

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900

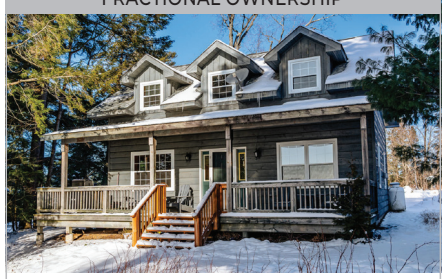
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10437756

OAKVIEW COLIVING

3 UNITS AVAILABLE
STARTING AT $319,000
UNIT 1, 2 AND 4

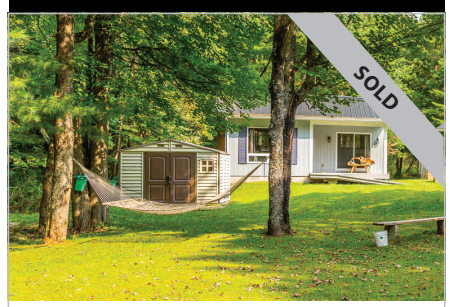
CHANDLER POINT
$67,000

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP



3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X11884689

GULL RIVER
$759,900



5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X10434162

KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN) $549,900

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X11959957

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10435688

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X10439458

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X10438580

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
HST Available
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
$178,000
25 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

Lot 7 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985022
SOLD
$50,000
1.51 Acres

Lot 8 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985025
SOLD
$50,000
1.48 Acres

Lot 10 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985027
SOLD
$50,000
1.77 Acres

Lot 11 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985029
SOLD
$50,000
1.40 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

MLS X12009789

3850 Gelert Road
$575,000
Gelert area
2300+ sq. ft of living
2.01 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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